

522,280

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



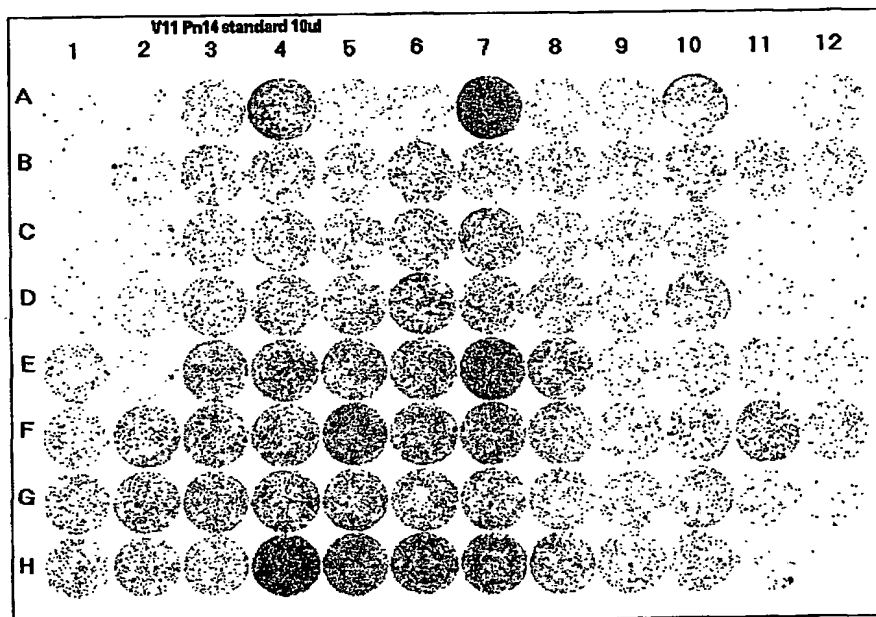
(43) International Publication Date  
12 February 2004 (12.02.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/013604 A2**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G01N**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/US2003/023928**
- (22) International Filing Date: **30 July 2003 (30.07.2003)**
- (25) Filing Language: **English**
- (26) Publication Language: **English**
- (30) Priority Data: **60/400,332 1 August 2002 (01.08.2002) US**
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **MERCK & CO., INC. [US/US]; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).**
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **CAULFIELD,**
- (74) Common Representative: **MERCK & CO., INC.; 126 East Lincoln Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065-0907 (US).**
- (81) Designated States (national): **CA, JP, US.**
- (84) Designated States (regional): **European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR).**
- Published:  
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **NOVEL PROCEDURE FOR GROWTH, IMAGING, AND ENUMERATION OF MICROBIAL COLONIES FOR SEROLOGICAL OR SCREENING ASSAYS**



(57) Abstract: A novel method is provided, for use within serological or screening assays, wherein microbial colonies are grown on filter membranes in multi-well plates. This process enables the colonies to be stained, imaged, and counted automatically using such automated systems as, e.g., computer and video-based imaging systems.

WO 2004/013604 A2